

February 17, 2004

“SISTERS OF MARY” FACILITIES BENEFIT FROM BANNER HEALTH SETTLEMENT

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem approved a partial distribution of Banner Health settlement funds to five area long-term care facilities run by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System. The facilities, located in Jamestown, Valley City, Enderlin and Fargo, each will receive \$158,000, a total of \$790,000, for projects that will provide a lasting benefit for the residents.

Stenehjem sued Banner Health Systems to prevent it from taking funds from the sale of its charitable long-term care facilities in North Dakota and removing them from the state. The lawsuit was settled in December last year, when Banner agreed to pay \$1 million. The settlement funds will be distributed later this week.

"I am extremely pleased that this historic settlement will now directly benefit the affected communities through permanent improvements to the facilities," Stenehjem said. Stenehjem met with officials from Sisters of Mary last week to finalize plans to use the settlement funds for several projects, including:

- Central Dakota Village, Jamestown
 - New resident mattresses
 - Furniture-resident rooms/common area
 - Resident lifts
 - Electric beds
- Sheyenne Care Center, Valley City
 - Door alarm system
 - Wheelchairs
 - Mechanical lift
- Maryhill Manor, Enderlin
 - Wheelchairs
 - Phone system
 - Van
 - Remodel of Care Station
 - Blood Pressure machine
- Rosewood on Broadway, Fargo
 - Wheelchairs
 - Furniture and equipment for new resident areas
 - Patient lift
 - Mag Lock Door security system
 - New electric beds
- Villa Maria, Fargo
 - Resident call light system
 - Electric beds
 - Furniture-resident rooms
 - Resident lifts
 - Dining room upgrade

"It is very gratifying to know that some of the same residents who have generously supported these facilities for many years through their donations, gifts and patronage, will now have an improved quality of life as residents of these same facilities," said Stenehjem.

- MORE -

News Release – Banner Health Settlement
February 17, 2004
Page 2 of 2

A complete list of the projects funded with the proceeds is attached. Disbursement of the remaining settlement funds for Lisbon Area Health Services, run by Catholic Health Initiatives, is anticipated soon.

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